

every day since then, the industry has been losing jobs. Considering the fact that tomorrow, hundreds of workers employed in this Canadian industry will march on the Hill to demand a definitive reply from the minister, could the minister today, as a matter of respect towards this industry, inform us whether tomorrow he will be able to give a definitive reply to this major industrial sector?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I have the greatest respect for this industry and its workers, but a few days ago, my colleague, the Minister of State for International Trade already told the House that the government will not give a reply until the information on which our policy was based has been revised, so not before the end of June or perhaps the beginning of July. Therefore, there will be no policy announcement either today or tomorrow, and in any case not before the last week of June.

INQUIRY CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS MINISTER WILL  
MAKE TO CABINET

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, I think the ministers know perfectly well that the recommendations made by the Association are supported not only by members on this side of the House but also by members on the government side. The Right Hon. Prime Minister has just mentioned additional efforts to create new jobs. Does the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce realize how urgent it is to save existing jobs first, and how can we trust a government that is letting a major industrial sector—and there are others—deteriorate, and talks about creating new jobs but is doing nothing to save jobs that still exist at the present time? Could the minister inform the House what kind of recommendations he made or is about to make to cabinet, in view of the needs of this industry, which can no longer afford prolonged delay?

[English]

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State for International Trade):** Madam Speaker, as we have stated several times in the House, we are very conscious of the jobs in the shoe industry. Many colleagues on both sides of the House have brought this matter to our attention. We are having a federal-provincial trade ministers' meeting on June 21. The hon. member is hopefully very conscious of the fact that, when we invoke global quotas, there is a possibility that we could be asked to compensate in some other sectors under GATT. We want to have this discussion with our provincial counterparts on June 21. As previously stated, we will be making an announcement in the last week of June or first week of July.

*Oral Questions*

• (1450)

[Translation]

**AIRPORTS**

MINISTER'S DECISION ON FUTURE OF MIRABEL

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Last week, the minister said that he had made a decision with respect to Mirabel. Would the minister please elaborate on this decision?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I myself have made a decision. However, I am going to submit my views to my cabinet colleagues, since it is up to the entire cabinet to decide in such matters.

[English]

ALTERNATIVES FACING MINISTER

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants):** Madam Speaker, was the minister reported correctly that the decision narrowed down to two alternatives—either to maintain the status quo, or to transfer all Dorval flights to Mirabel except for flights within Québec and flights to Toronto, which, in the minister's own words, means that you would more or less “dig a hole at Mirabel.”? Is the minister's decision and his recommendation to cabinet one of those two alternatives? If that is the case, with no in-betweens, which he has also said in his statement, and admitting full well that the economy is difficult to keep under control, can the minister explain why, if that is the nature of his decision after all this time, he is even thinking of making that recommendation for any shift which recalls all the economic problems that hon. members have brought to his attention?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, it is normal to look at all the options when you make a decision. This is the normal decision-making practice.

I am reported to have said that there were only two possibilities. One was the status quo, and one was option six in the first report, with which my hon. friend is familiar. That latter option is to transfer all except short-haul routes around Dorval. The reason for that is simply that the in-betweens present technical difficulties. There are six or seven or eight of them. For example, all charters in Mirabel, and anything within three hours, and beyond three hours. All these variations and in-betweens have been studied. All of them present technical difficulties which are too great to consider. With respect to the three-hour option, for example, all routes less than three hours long would remain at Dorval and all routes longer than three hours would go to Mirabel. It would be difficult to present a carrier from establishing a stop from Dorval while travelling whatever distance he would be going. We have looked at all these in-between possibilities and have found them wanting.